

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a stairlift installation on a staircase having a first step having a level above a floor from which the staircase extends, comprising:

providing a rail having a main section arranged at the angle of the staircase and a lower end-terminated section extending from the main section, the lower section curving downwardly from the main section to terminate substantially on the first step and an upper end;

providing a carriage mounted on the rail for movement ~~there along~~ along both said main section and said lower section;

providing a footrest mounted on the carriage for displacement with the carriage; and  
~~[[and]]~~ constructing and arranging the rail and the carriage to ensure that, when the carriage is at a lower most position on the lower section of the rail, the footrest is positioned below the first step level.

8. (Currently Amended) A stairlift for use on a staircase having a first step having a level above a floor from which the staircase extends, the stairlift comprising:

a rail having a main section arranged at the angle of the staircase and a lower end-fixed to section extending from the main section, the lower section curving downwardly from the main section to terminate substantially on the first step and an upper end;

a carriage mounted on the rail for movement ~~there-along~~along both said main section and said lower section; and

a footrest mounted on the carriage for displacement with the carriage;

the rail and carriage being constructed and arranged such that, when the carriage is at a lower most position on the lower section of the rail, the footrest is positioned below the first step level.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The stairlift of claim ~~[[ 9 ]]~~ 8, in which the lower section is substantially vertical.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[ rail ]]~~stairlift of claim ~~[[ 11 ]]~~ 8, in which the rail comprises a single longitudinal member.

13. (New) The stairlift of claim 10 in which the rail comprises a single longitudinal member.